

POWER PLANTS

Two major power plants have been operated in the Midway area in addition to the Heber Light and Power Company in which Midway owns one-eighth interest. The first plant was developed in Snake Creek Canyon near the turn of the Century by President Joseph R. Murdock.

Realizing the potential of electric power, Pres. Murdock, along with several others took an option on property owned by Bishop Jacob Probst at the mouth of Snake Creek Canyon. During 1907 and 1908 they surveyed several possible plant sites, and finally chose one that they felt would best utilize water flow out of the canyon. Work was begun under the direction of Bishop Probst, with John H. (Jack) Buehler, John A. Sulser, Samuel (Sam) Ritchie and Gottlieb Buehler employed for the project.

Even though this venture failed, the idea persisted, and Jesse Knight

p 588

*See
Electricians
file*

IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE . . .

589

who organized the Knight Investment Company later took over the project with the idea of supplying electric power to mines and industries he owned in the area. Work on the plant resumed in the Spring of 1909 and provided employment to many Midway men. The plant was ready for production in April, 1910, and a power line was strung to the Snake Creek Tunnel and another to Park City. Later lines ran to American Fork Canyon.

About 1912, Utah Power and Light Co., successor to the Knight Investment Company, took over the plant, and has maintained it since as a booster station. In recent years a line has been run from the plant to the Olmstead Plant at the mouth of Provo Canyon, connecting Snake Creek with all sections of the UP&L system.

Superintendents of Snake Creek's power plant have included John W. Orrock, Harvey Stone and William Brereton. Operators have included Nathaniel Baldwin, William Blood, John A. Sulser, Cyril Orrock, Henry S. Coleman, Vern Probst, LaVon Hair, Earl Willetts, Bert Scott, Claude Cornwall, Shield Montgomery and Robert Jarvis.

John A. Sulser, Conrad Gertsch and Vern Probst were maintenance men for the plant.

The other plant near Midway is located at Deer Creek Dam and was placed in operation on February 17, 1958. Part of the multi-million dollar Deer Creek Project which began in 1938, the power has two generators with capacities of 2,500 kilowatts each. Some 27,000,000 kilowatt hours are produced yearly at the plant.

p 589